

# **Developing and Maintaining a Collaborative, Multi-Watershed Monitoring Network**

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## **Biographical Sketch of Author**

Mark Doneux is employed by the Washington Soil and Water Conservation District as the Water Resource Coordinator. Mr. Doneux holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Reclamation from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. Mr. Doneux has 17 years of experience in the water resource and environmental field, specializing in watershed and water quality analyses, lake restoration studies and projects, land conservation planning and erosion control, and agency coordination. Mr. Doneux represents the SWCD on the Washington County Plat Commission, is the Administrator for the Brown's Creek Watershed District and is a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control.

## **Abstract**

The Washington Soil and Water Conservation District (Washington County, MN) located along both the Mississippi and St. Croix (Wild and Scenic River) Rivers has numerous trout streams and is home to many large and exceptionally clean lakes. Washington County is also one of the fastest growing counties in the Midwest. For these reasons, the Washington Soil and Water Conservation District implements an aggressive water monitoring program. This program interfaces with both the state and local water management agencies. The water monitoring program collects both water quality and quantity information and provides vital data for local watershed management organizations in the implementation of their watershed management plans. The program also accelerates the implementation of state programs via an enhanced data base that is used for both projects and long term trend analysis. The Washington SWCD currently monitors 35 lakes for water quality, 90 lakes for lake level, operates 12 stream monitoring stations that collect both flow and water quality data and 5 urban stormwater runoff sites. The District also collects water level readings at 28 groundwater observation wells and operates 8 automated rain gages. The Washington SWCD water monitoring program utilizes the sampling protocol from state agencies to ensure accurate data but also uses volunteers, where appropriate and available, to reduce costs and build more local support for water resource protection initiatives.